

<p>to his decision to mention the likely closure of the Poppy Inn in his address at the ball. He confirmed that one person had sent a complaint email that CL would share with the committee along with a copy of his response. <i>Post meeting note. After Chris had explained the on-going issue to the person sending the complaining e-mail that person fully understood the situation and indeed would be looking to support us in finding a new venue. So all very positive.</i></p> <p>CL said he did manage to have a discussion with the Armed Forces Defence Minister Luke Pollard during his visit to Liberty Lodge regarding the Poppy Inn and other RBL related matters. Luke Pollard was very supportive of what the Falkland Islands Branch were doing for the RBL.</p> <p>With regard to the PR campaign around the closure of the Poppy Inn, CL said he had just been interviewed by Falklands Radio and there would be an article in Penguin News. He would be sending a further letter to MLA's.</p> <p>Over £720 was collected at the Remembrance Sunday retiring collection at the Cathedral. KB confirmed costs of £134.90, less than last year.</p> <p>It was agreed to set a date and venue for the AGM during this meeting.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">All</p>
<p>Vice-Chairman's report:</p> <p>MB said a couple more wreaths had gone out and he has just one more to lay as part of a request from overseas. He confirmed the person who asked for it was very thankful that we could help them. He mentioned various requests including one from a group of fundraisers who raised more than £7,000 for Liberty Lodge.</p> <p>MB said he was still collating the figures following the Poppy Ball, but confirmed there were 156 guests. The Raffle raised around £1,000, ticket money was £3,100. The bar will have raised at least £1,000 and he said there was another £500 raised from the Poppy Inn bar from Remembrance Sunday.</p> <p>MB said there were two main sponsors - Stanley Services and FIC. Others had donated prizes and he also thanked Emma Brook for her help in coordinating</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">MB</p>

<p>the raffle, and JC for her support. Poppy Tins remain out and being collected over the weekend. Those that have already been collected are feeling very heavy.</p> <p>There was a discussion about future collections and whether we need a card reader. It was confirmed one issue is around the requirement for a UK bank account if setting up a card machine. KB said there's been some suggestion of working with the Gibraltar Bank that has a UK sort code. There are however, some issues around this, including PEP. Applications also involve a lot of very searching and personal questions about people like Trustees. He said The Head of the Gibraltar Bank is visiting at the end of year and he'll be discussing this with him.</p> <p>MB has been in touch with CBF and he is aware of his Honorary position with the RBL Branch and is aware that there will be an AGM.</p>	<p>KB</p>
<p>Treasurer's Report: HH confirmed the need to transfer money from the main account in to the Poppy Appeal account for wreaths. Money from the Poppy Account will be sent once we've sorted the appeal for 2024 and by end of December. He confirmed it will be a sizeable amount as it's two years' worth. MB confirmed the last few wreath payments have now gone straight in to the Poppy Account.</p> <p>HH said the accounts are with the Accountant who's asked some questions and he has provided her with the information. He said he organised an extension to the period by which we had to send the accounts. The 2023/24 accounts will be finalised and he feels we will then be better prepared and pro-active for the next financial year.</p> <p>With regard to the Benevolent Fund, it was agreed to contact the RBL nationally for suggestions about what to do with the Benevolent Fund, which remains very static.</p> <p>There was a discussion about restricted funds that are given to the Branch for local use only and are therefore ring-fenced.</p>	<p>CL/HH</p>

<p>Secretary's Report: Nothing to report.</p>	
<p>Welfare Report: No report presented.</p>	
<p>Membership: MB said a couple of people had asked him about membership and he had referred them to the RBL website.</p>	
<p>AOB: CL asked JC to ask if she needs help with Standard carrying duties.</p> <p>There's no Parade for Battle Day but there is still an event for wreath laying. KB said there will be a letter in Penguin News about cancellations for Battle Day and the Sovereign's Birthday.</p> <p>We need to give 21 days' notice of the AGM, so it will go in Penguin News next Friday and be held on Thursday 12th December. It will also go on the Branch Facebook page and on website. It'll be held at 1800 (Falkland time) and 2100 (UK time) at The Harbour Lights. <i>Post meeting note. The venue has been changed to the Chamber of Commerce as the cost is significantly less than the Harbour Lights. Conferencing facilities are available and will be advertised for members who cannot attend in person.</i></p> <p>There was a discussion about The Poppy Inn and whether we should keep it open until the builder's move in. MB said he had wanted to keep it open but the bar is closing because Colin Summers has said we will be asked to leave by January 2025. CL said he would go and see Colin Summers to find out more.</p> <p>It was agreed it will be interesting to see how the PR campaign goes and KB warned we should also be prepared for if they decide to turn off the water/electric in the building.</p> <p>HH said we need to improve the flow of information to members. The issue is that we don't have a full list of members so it was agreed to work on that and then</p>	<p>CL/NL</p> <p>CL</p>

send an update out.	
Date and time of the next meeting: There will be a short meeting before the AGM so people can be updated. This will be on Friday 6 th December. 1700 (Falkland time) 2000 (UK time).	All